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HANFORD VETERINARY DRUG COMPANY AND EMPLOYEES INDICTED
ON COUNTERFEIT ANIMAL DRUG SMUGGLING CHARGES

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that VETERINARY PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., HAROLD DESJARDINS, JAMES MANN and MARILYN BRACY were indicted by a federal grand jury in Fresno on conspiracy to smuggle misbranded and counterfeit veterinary drugs into the United States.

This case is was investigated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration - Office of Criminal Investigations, and the Fresno Office of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

HAROLD DESJARDINS, 66, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of VETERINARY PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., (VPI) located at 13159 13TH Road West, Hanford, California. JAMES MANN, 61, is the Manager/Purchasing Agent of VPI and MARILYN BRACY, 53, is the Office Manager of VPI.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Cullers, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that, between 1998 and 2006, the defendants conspired to smuggle misbranded and counterfeit animal drugs into the United States. According to the indictment, the defendants conspired to import from Grupo Protasa, also known as Vet Del Noroeste, a company in Mexicali, Mexico, injectable antibiotics used primarily upon beef and dairy cattle. Specifically, the drugs are Nuflor, manufactured by Schering Plough; Excenel, manufactured by Pfizer; Baytril, manufactured by Bayer; Naxcel, manufactured formerly by Upjohn and now by Pfizer; Micotil manufactured by Elanco, and Ivomec, manufactured by Merck.

The indictment alleges that the defendants would then sell these misbranded and counterfeit drugs to their unsuspecting customers throughout the United States and represent that they were FDA approved drugs. Beef and dairy products produced from the animals that are being treated with these untested drugs ultimately make their way into the human food chain.

The defendants each face up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 if convicted of the conspiracy count.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations, and each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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